

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A fire assembly adapted to be installed into a wall assembly comprising:

a recessed fan assembly; and

a housing substantially enclosing said recessed fan assembly such that said housing and said recessed fan assembly form a preassembled integral unit adapted for installation behind a surface opening defined by a surface of a wall assembly, said housing comprising at least one generally fire-resistant material, said housing enclosing said recessed fan assembly in a manner such that said housing is configured to form a continuous surface with said surface of said wall assembly.

2. A fire assembly as defined in claim 1, wherein said wall assembly has a fire rating, and wherein said housing is capable of maintaining said fire rating after said fire assembly is installed.

3. A fire assembly as defined in claim 1, wherein said housing comprises a cube-shaped box, said cube-shaped box comprising a plurality of walls made from said fire-resistant material.

4. A fire assembly as defined in claim 1, wherein said fire-resistant material is selected from the group consisting of drywall, plaster, and combinations thereof.

5. A fire assembly as defined in claim 1, further comprising a support structure, said support structure being connected to said housing and said fan assembly such that said housing, said fan assembly, and said support structure form said preassembled integral unit.

6. A fire assembly as defined in claim 5, wherein said support structure defines an interior surface facing said fan assembly and an exterior surface, said housing only being located adjacent said exterior surface.

7. A fire assembly as defined in claim 6, wherein said support

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8. A fire assembly as defined in claim 6, wherein said support structure comprises an enclosed metal housing.

10. A fire assembly as defined in claim 9, wherein said drywall material comprises sheet rock.

(a) a fan assembly;

(b) a support structure surrounding said fan assembly, said support structure defining an interior surface facing said fan assembly and an exterior surface; and

(c) a fire-resistant housing surrounding said support structure, said fire-resistant housing being positioned adjacent said exterior surface of said support structure, said fan assembly, said support structure, and said fire-resistant housing comprising a preassembled integral unit, said fire-resistant housing comprising a plurality of fire-resistant walls; and

12. A method as defined in claim 11, wherein said fire-resistant housing is only located adjacent said exterior surface of said support structure.

13. A method as defined in claim 11, wherein said support  
30 structure comprises an open frame.

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14. A method as defined in claim 11, wherein said support structure comprises an enclosed metal housing.

15. A method as defined in claim 11, wherein said fire-resistant walls comprise a drywall material.

5 16. A method as defined in claim 15, wherein said drywall material comprise a sheet rock.

17. A method as defined in claim 11, wherein said fire-resistant housing comprises a plurality of sidewalls and a top wall attached together.

10 18. A wall assembly comprising:

a surface defining a wall of a building; and  
a fire assembly installed into an opening defined by said surface, said fire assembly comprising:

(a) a fan assembly;  
15 (b) a support structure surrounding said fan assembly, said support structure defining an interior surface facing said fan assembly and an exterior surface; and  
(c) a fire-resistant housing surrounding said support structure, said fire-resistant housing being positioned adjacent said exterior surface of said support structure, said fan assembly, said support structure and said fire-resistant housing comprising a preassembled integral unit installed behind said surface opening, said fire-resistant housing comprising a plurality of fire-resistant walls, said fire-resistant housing enclosing said fan assembly in a manner such that  
20 said housing in configured to form a continuous surface with the surface defined by the wall of said building.

19. A wall assembly as defined in claim 18, wherein said support structure comprises an enclosed metal housing.

20 20. A wall assembly as defined in claim 18, wherein said fire-resistant walls comprise a drywall material.

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21. A wall assembly as defined in claim 20, wherein said drywall material comprises sheetrock.

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